

1,600,000 people live in these poverty-stricken households. New York City has 2,758,000 housing units, of which 276,000 are to a significant degree substandard. Over half a million people received various forms of public welfare at an annual cost to the Federal, State, and local governments of more than half a billion dollars.

If Manhattan, Brooklyn, and the Bronx were separate cities, they could constitute three of the five largest cities in the Nation and you would not hesitate to provide for them accordingly. The blighted areas of each of our boroughs are tragically large and unhappily famous—central Harlem, and east Harlem, the lower East Side in Manhattan; Bedford-Stuyvesant, Brownsville, and East New York in Brooklyn; the south Bronx and south Jamaica.

A massive demonstration program would be a major impetus to our efforts to revitalize these areas. The President appears to contemplate demonstration projects involving 10 percent of the total population of a city. Such a program, adequately funded, would have a profound impact on our city, though it would be far short of reaching all the areas of critical need.

It would be a disaster for the morale of New Yorkers if, after all the publicity, we were to learn suddenly that New York City would again be restricted to a relatively modest program. The President's message refers to programs in our largest cities that would provide decent housing for approximately 5,000 families, rehabilitate other marginal housing for 50,000 people, and involve a total of 35,000 units for 100,000 people. If this were to be taken as a limit on a demonstration for New York City, it would involve little more than 1 percent of our population and little more than 1 percent of our housing stock.

Such a limitation would be an outright discrimination against our city solely because of its size. It would mean that a vast number of the poor, the badly housed, and the socially disadvantaged of New York would be denied the opportunity to participate in this and other Federal programs merely because they live in the largest city in the Nation.

I hope that you will make clear in the legislation and in the committee report that these illustrations in the President's message are not to be taken as applying a ceiling for New York City.

The demonstration cities program must offer solutions to New York on the same relative scale as they are offered to any other community in this Nation. We should not be put in the position of choosing Harlem over Bedford-Stuyvesant or Bedford-Stuyvesant over the south Bronx. It must be clear that the largest cities, certainly New York, may have more than one demonstration area.

Our very size compounds our problems; it does not simplify them. The President has recommended to Congress that it "set in motion forces of change in great urban areas." But if we are to demonstrate by this legislation that poverty and blight can be overcome by comprehensive, concentrated programs, then we cannot ignore the areas of greatest urban paralysis. For this demonstration to make its point, it must supply dramatic and apparent solutions for the vast slums of our largest city.

If the demonstration cities program is to accomplish this goal, it must be given a vastly increased appropriation. We are all aware of the difficult fiscal pressures on the Federal Government. The Con-